



The Messenger

March 2023



Holy Week Schedule:
April 2 Palm Sunday
April 6 Holy Thursday
April 7 Good Friday
April 8 Holy Saturday
April 9 Easter Day

Dear members of Minden United Methodist Church,

As we enter the season of Lent, it's important to take a moment to reflect on the meaning of this time and what it represents in our faith. Lent is a time of reflection and renewal, when we can focus on our relationship with God, deepen our faith, and renew our commitment to living a life of love, service, and compassion.

Here are some ways you participate in Lent. First, I invite you to join us for devotional time this Lent. We post a devotion from the upper room daily at 7:00 am on Facebook and YouTube. Our church family will lead the devotions. Every day we can deepen our faith through their commitments. Second, I also encourage you to remember and pray for a person every day until Easter. During the previous worship, I asked everyone to write a name on a small piece of paper of someone they wanted to pray for. I suggested you should not write your name or family members. I will pray for the names whenever I come to the church. This is a great spiritual practice for our relationship with God and one another, to show our love and compassion, and to lift those who are in need. Third, let us have a service at home at least once a week. You don't need to make it one hour. You can share with your family what they want to pray for and read some Bible verses. And parents lead the prayer from what they share.

As we journey through Lent, let us remember that we are not alone. We are part of a community of faith, a family of believers who support and encourage one another on our spiritual journeys. Let us reach out to one another, share our struggles and joys, and offer each other comfort and strength in the face of life's challenges.

May this season of Lent be a time of deepening faith, renewed commitment, and growing closer to God and one another.

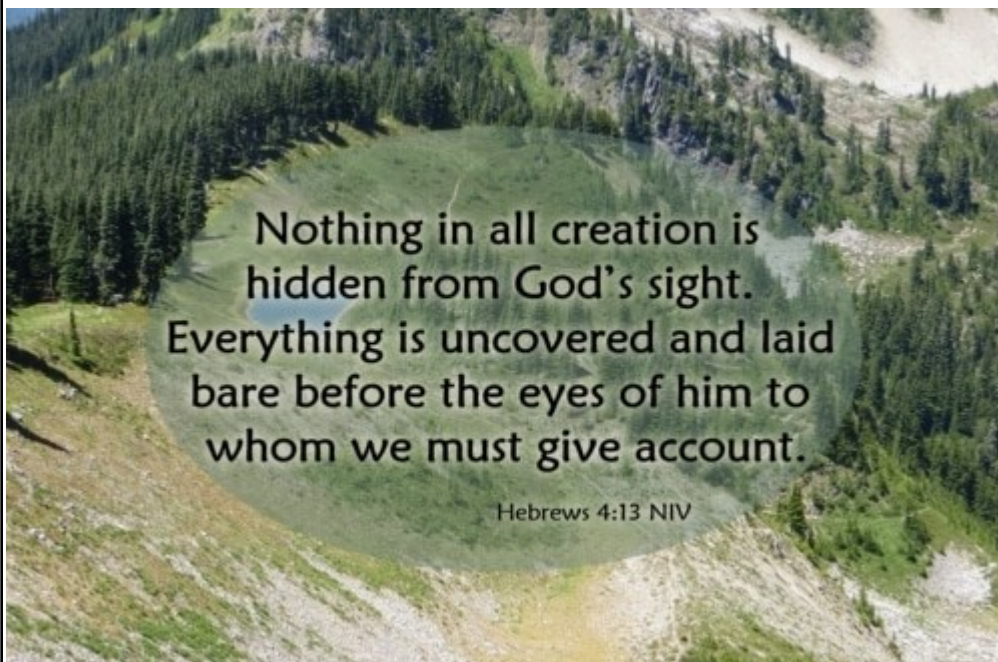
Blessings to you all during this Lenten season.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Peter Choi

Is God In Your Story? by Joyce Will

We all have a story, some longer than others, and some are unfortunately really short. That story is your life, my friends. And if your life was turned into a book, would God be found somewhere in that story book? It gives you something to think about, doesn't it. This may sound odd, but I really enjoy reading obituaries, those life stories of people when they die, that hopefully someone carefully writes out so that everyone who reads it will know just a little bit about who that person was. And it makes me wonder, what does God see of our story? Did you know He sees it all, He sees and knows our entire story? He sees us all of the time, when we sleep, when we are awake, when we are sad, when we laugh until tears fall down our faces. While you

may think you can hide from Him from time to time, let me remind you that that just will never happen. He sees our entire life story as it plays out from the moment we take our first breath as a newborn until we take our last breath on this side of heaven. Hebrews 4:13 tells us just that: "He knows about everyone, everywhere. Everything about us is bare and wide open to the all-seeing eyes of our living God; nothing can be hid-



den from him to whom we must explain all that we have done." Whoa! That's pretty black and white, my friends. Not only does He see everything we do, but when we are at the gates of Heaven, we will be stopped by Him who will listen to us explain everything that we have done. That's kind of like when you tried to get away with something as a little kid and somehow your parent/parents always knew about it; it's like they had eyes in the back of their heads and were always knowing what we were doing. Well my friends, God is like that too. We will never ever be hidden from God our Father. God knows our habits, our thoughts, our words, our past and even our future. How do we know this? It tells us in the Bible in Psalms 139: 1-4 - "O Lord, You have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit or stand. When far away you know my every thought. You chart the path ahead of me, and tell me where to stop and rest. Every moment, you know where I am. You know what I am going to say before I even say it. You both precede and follow me, and place your hand of blessing on my head." Let me ask you this - God knows the intent of your heart so consider if God would walk into the place you are at, at this very moment, what would you do? Would you change the way you talk, the way you act?

I just love that beautiful contemporary song by Michael W. Smith titled "Our God Is An Awesome God". Take some time to look it up on your computers or your phones and listen carefully to the lyrics and you will agree, we truly do have an awesome God! Psalms 139:17-18 continues with this awesomeness: "How precious it is, Lord, to realize that you are thinking about me constantly! I can't even count how many times a day your thoughts turn toward me. And when I waken in the morning, you are still thinking of me!". Can you actually ponder this for a moment with me; how in our wisdom can we understand this? That this God who formed us, who created us, who knows exactly the moment when we were born and the moment when we will die and who loves us so much, thought that this world needed one of us in it - this awesome God who loves us so much that He gave us His Son because He knows that we are sinners, everyone of us are. And yet, He loves us. My friends, God desires so much for Him to be in our lives, in our hearts, in our stories. Jesus died on that old rugged cross for everyone of us. Make sure, my friends, that God lives in your hearts so that if anyone asks, is God in your story, you can for certain and for sure tell them, yes, God is in my story. Jw♥

Scripture Readers for February:

March 5: Larry Evans
March 12: KayLyn McBride
March 19: Doug Hammer
March 26:

Refreshment Hosts for February:

March 5: Larry & Nancy Evans
March 12: Russ & Carolyn Olsen
March 19: Jack Hultquist
March 26:

Greeters/Ushers for February:

March 5: Larry & Nancy Evans
March 12: Russ & Carolyn Olsen
March 19: Jack Hultquist
March 26:

March 5: Communion Steward:

Communion Servers: Nancy & Larry Evans, Marah Dornhoff, &

Please Call (308) 832-1995 if you can fill one of the open dates or email managerumcminden@msn.com.

Birthdays

- 2—Shirley Fellers
- 3—Tom Taylor
- 4—Joe Hultquist
- 5—Janell Shelton
- 6—Vivian Bunger
Larry Evans
- 8—Jane Craig
- 9—Roxanne Sorensen
- 11—Roma Anderson
- 12—Isabelle Martin
- 19—Ginger Frizane
- 20—Sandy Johnson
Amy Kring
Russ Olsen
- 22—Laci Loseke
- 23—Lisa Maulsby
Karen Smith
- 24—John Finkner
- 28—David Olsen
- 31—Gene Lundeen



**MARCH BIRTHDAYS
& ANNIVERSARIES**

Anniversaries

- 2—Merlin & Lynette Beahm—48 years
- 9—Ed & Roxanne Sorensen—38 years
- 13—Jason & Corey Smidt—19 years
- 20—Russ & Carolyn Olsen—9 years
- 28—Lonnie & Marsha Granger—36 years

Reminders

Youth Group: March 1 & 15, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Youth Church School: Every Wednesday 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Confirmation Class: every Wednesday at 5:30pm.

Life in Our Church Family...

Take a moment and say a prayer for: Family & Friends of Marge Madsen, Fred Will, Larry Anderson, Merlin Beahm, and Jan Hofferber (Kathi Schutz's mother).

Please call the office when you know of any illness, hospitalization, new babies, marriages, joyous or sad news among your friends or family members.

If you or your family has a prayer request and you would like to put on the Prayer Chain call Jeanette Wilkinson at 402-756-0772.

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Lenten Lunch Kid's Church School 3:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm Youth Group 6:30pm 7pm Ad Council	2 Prayer Time 9:30am 10am Bible Study 5pm Bible Study	3	4
5 10am Worship 11am Adult Sunday School	6	7 Girl Scouts 6:30pm	8 Lenten Lunch UMW 9:30am Kid's Church School 3:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm Finance Mtg 7pm	9 Prayer Time 9:30am 10am Bible Study 5pm Bible Study	10	11
12 Daylight Savings 10am Worship 11am Adult Sunday School	13 Boy Scouts 7pm	14 Cub Scouts 7pm	15 Lenten Lunch Kid's Church School 3:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm Youth Group 6:30pm	16 Prayer Time 9:30am 10am Bible Study 5pm Bible Study	17	18 Joan Fries 90th Birthday Open House 3-5pm in the fellowship hall
19 10am Worship 11am Adult Sunday School Cub Scouts 3pm	20 WIC	21 Girl Scouts 6:30pm	22 Lenten Lunch Kid's Church School 3:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm	23 Prayer Time 9:30am 10am Bible Study 5pm Bible Study	24	25
26 10am Worship 11am Adult Sunday School	27 Boy Scouts 7pm	28 Cub Scouts 7pm	29 Lenten Lunch Kid's Church School 3:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm	30 Prayer Time 9:30am 10am Bible Study 5pm Bible Study	31 Cub Scouts 6pm	





Lenten Lunches will be at the Westminster United Presbyterian Church. Lunches began February 22 and will go through March 29. Every Wednesday lunch and program will be provide by a different Church and the money will go towards the Minden InterChurch Ministries. Cost is \$7 per meal.



February Financial Report...

General Giving in February	\$10,093
General Fund Giving to Date	\$21,565
General Expenses in February	\$31,530
General Fund Expenses to Date	\$48,131

(This report does not include the final days in February.)



Lenten Annual Fish Fry at Windmill (521 N Colorado Ave) March 10, 5:30pm to 7:30pm. \$13 per adult; sponsored by St. John's Catholic Community Knights of Columbus.

United Methodist Church
340 N. Newell Ave
Minden, NE 68959

**Sunday
Worship
10:00am**

**Kid's
Church
School
Wednesdays
3:30pm**

**Church Information:
Church office: 308-832-1995
Parsonage: 308-832-2215**

**Pastor Peter Choi:
201-888-8430
Please call or text for
appointment or email
peterchoiminden@gmail.com**

**Jaime Sinsel, Office Manager:
308-830-2867
managerumcminden@msn.com
Monday–Friday 8am-Noon**

**Jeanette Wilkinson,
Prayer Chain: 402-756-0772**

